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LANDSCAPE GARDENING

Excerpts from 1924 Annual Reports of
State and County Extension Agents

Prepared by
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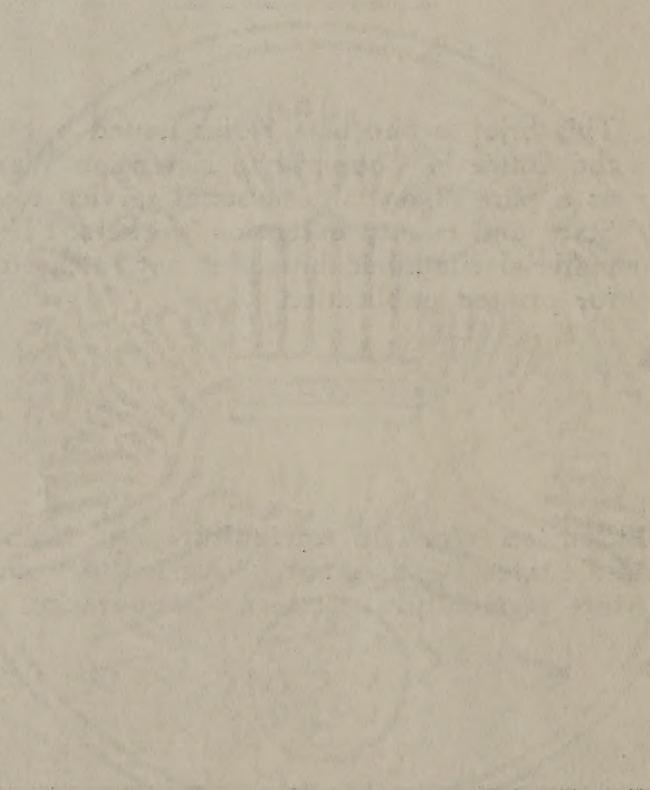
Brief No. 30

February, 1926

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

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of State and County Extension Agents.

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Comfortable and attractive homes are an important factor in maintaining contented farm communities. Improving the appearance of the surroundings of the home tends to increase pride in it and thus produce deeper attachment for it. Likewise, attractive grounds about public and semipublic buildings like the school, the church, and the courthouse, create pride in the community.

As the object of extension work is to improve living conditions on the farm, so the object of landscape extension work should be to improve the surroundings of as many farm homes as possible. The measure of the success of such work is the number of homes influenced. A completely planned and thoroughly planted demonstration farm home is good if it influences other homes to do likewise. A well planted school grounds or other public building is also good if it stimulates patrons to begin beautifying their homes.

* No attempt is made to cite all references to landscape gardening in this circular. Only selected extracts showing typical methods employed and results obtained in a number of States are included. Owing to differences in terminology used in various States and to other local conditions, the information contained herein should be reviewed by the State subject-matter specialist concerned before incorporating any part of it in the extension program for the State.

Arkansas

The improvement of home grounds is one of our more recently adopted practices. We are not yet able to do a systematic piece of work as the State employs only one specialist in horticulture, and with the fruit areas, truck crops, and practices of commercial kind and size to occupy him, he has little time for home gardens and home grounds.

The Ashley County home demonstration agent reports 15 women who have continued the planting of their home grounds started last year according to a definite landscape plan. They also had the cemetery planted the same way and are specializing in the use of native shrubs and flowers to show that good results can be achieved without an expenditure of a large sum for plants. Next year the agent will have charge of planting the courtyard and keeping it beautiful. A small amount of money has been set aside by the county for that purpose.

Crittendon County has two or three outstanding demonstrations in home grounds improvement which have been under way for four years or more. Three years ago the agent in St. Francis County started a number of small parks in Forrest City, and these stand as a monument to her good work.

In Phillips County, the home demonstration agent, working with the civic department of the county federation has laid out and planted vacant lots and crossings in the small towns along the railroads. For two years the club boys and girls have kept up lovely little parks in Marvell and Benton. The home demonstration club women improved nine school grounds in Bradley County.

Mrs. Taylor, a demonstration club member in Hot Spring County, enlisted the entire membership of the county federation to help her win the State laurels in the home-improvement contest which included home grounds. She made most attractive use of vines and shrubs to conceal all unattractive foundations.

In Faulkner County reports from 285 rural club women show that 76 per cent of the members were working on better lawns and flowers.-Connie J. Bonslagel, Home Demonstration Leader, 310 Donaghey Building, Little Rock.

Seven schools, Lowell, Morning Star, Vaughn, Droke, Hiwasse, Pleasant Hill, and Duckworth, are beginning a beautification plan to last over a term of years. Vaughn and Morning Star have the most extensive plans. The Morning Star school is on a main highway about 4 miles from Vaughn, a town with a big concrete school, a little white church, and a new 90-foot community building. The two community centers are planning a planting and improvement program to last over a term of years, and they have also asked the farmers whose homes lie between them on the pike, to beautify their homes, using some of the same shrubs and a few poplar trees to tie the whole together. This plan seems feasible, practical, and attractive.

In our home beautification we are proving the value of the castor bean for a quick dense growth with a tropical look where a screen is needed for unsightly buildings or where a shade is needed for a bare screened porch or even as a small group planting.

At the county fair in the seed and flower exchange about 40 slips, cuttings, shrubs, and packages of seeds were exchanged for new varieties by flower lovers. A number of rose gardens have been started, as well as permanent plantings around house foundations, at sides of yards, and as a screening for back yards.-Elizabeth Temple, Home Demonstration Agent, Rogers, Benton County.

The Rison women's club has⁶⁸ special part of their program the beautification of the courtyard. Window boxes were made for the front windows, shrubbery was started around the corners of the courthouse, and cannas, chrysanthemums, flowering almonds, japonicas, hollyhocks, honeysuckle, yellow jasmine, and clematis were planted. In addition to this, the club had as a part of its regular club work the planning of a chrysanthemum show to be held in the fall. Each club member had three new chrysanthemums, two fall and one winter blooming plants. This exhibit is to be given as an all-day exhibit, while for three hours in the afternoon it is to assume the form of a Japanese tea with high-school girls, dressed as Japanese maids, to serve.-Dollie Randleman, Home Demonstration Agent, Rison, Cleveland County.

California

In September 1922, the county was divided into 6 zones by the county farm home department committee. Circular letters were sent to each center chairman asking her to assist in locating at least 2 demonstrators in each of the 6 zones. Nineteen farmsteads and 3 school grounds were located. At the 3-day visit of the specialist we were able to reach only 9 farmsteads and 3 school grounds. The following February, 8 of the farmsteads and 2 school grounds were partially planted. In October 1923, the specialist again visited the county and planned 12 farmsteads and 2 school grounds.

The goal for 1924 was as follows:

- (1) To have 9 farmstead demonstrations continue.
- (2) To have 3 school ground demonstrations continue.
- (3) To have 13 new farmstead demonstrations begin.
- (4) To have 2 new school ground demonstrations planned.
- (5) To have 7 of the 13 farmsteads planted this year.
- (6) To have 25 families adopt some suggestions.
- (7) To have 10 of these families in centers not reached during 1922 and 1923.

After receiving the plan of places and the list of plants from the specialist, the agent visited the homes to plan the work for 1924.

Only seven of the farmsteads were planted and none of the school grounds. The plantings were made as follows:

Ground 1-

- 1 Plumbago capensis, blue
- 2 Carissa grandiflora
- 10 Lantana, orange and red
- 4 Ficus pumila (creeping fig)
- 1 Antigonon leptotis
- 2 Thuja orientalis
- 1 Fraxinus velutina (Arizona ash)
- 1 Baby Emma Teschendorf (dark red rose)
- 1 American beauty (large red rose)
- 1 Edward Mawley (crimson rose)
- 1 General McArthur (red rose)
- 1 Papa Gontier (shaded red rose)
- 1 Etoile de France (dark red rose)

Ground 2-

- 3 Myrtus communis
- 2 Orange, navel
- 2 Olives mission
- 2 Fraxinus velutina (Arizona ash)
- 2 Eucalyptus viminalis

Ground 3-

- 1 Spartium junceum (Spanish broom)
- 14 Lantana, yellow dwarf
- 3 Ligustrum japonicum
- 4 Nerium oleander, double pink
- 3 Abelia grandiflora
- 2 Carissa
- 1 Eubonymus japonica
- 1 Wisteria chinensis, (purple wisteria)

Ground 4-

- 8 Lantana, yellow
- 5 Nerium oleander, double pink
- 1 Fraxinus velutina (Arizona ash)
- 8 Hibiscus syriacus (Althea)
- 7 Spartium junceum
- 30 Verbena, dark blue
- 14 Myrtus communis
- 5 Thompson's seedless grape
- 2 Abelia grandiflora
- 30 Ragged robin roses

Ground 5-

- 22 Ragged robin roses
- 6 Carissa grandiflora
- 8 Lantana, purple
- 40 Ligustrum ovalifolium
- 40 Ligustrum japonica
- 2 Guava strawberry

Ground 6-

- 12 Lantana, lavender and yellow
- 3 Cannas, King Humbert
- 12 Iris in border
- 1 Fraxinus velutina (Arizona ash)
- 7 Ligustrum japonicum
- 4 Myrtus communis
- 1 Bamboo giant bamboo
- 2 Cortaderia argentea (pampas grass)
- 4 Schinus Molle, pepper tree

Ground 7-

- 12 Cannas, Ling Humbert
- 2 Lantana delicatissima, pink and yellow
- 3 Hibiscus elegantissima
- 1 Pepper
- 2 Casurina stricta
- 6 Eucalyptus rudis

Total number of plants used was 367. Grounds 3 and 7 have had the least mortality and show the best growth.

In order to further this work the farm home department has organized a plant exchange system by appointing a county project leader in home grounds and one for each center. The center project leader will keep a record of all plants and seeds desired and communicate them to the county project leader who will reach the other center project leaders. In this way they hope to establish an exchange in the county to enable farmers to dispose of plants or seeds not needed on their own grounds.

Nine farmstead demonstrations have been continued, but no plants have been added. Three school ground demonstrations have also been continued. Twelve new farmstead demonstrations have been planned, seven of which were planted this year. Twenty-five families adopted suggestions, 10 of which were in centers not reached during 1922 or 1923. - Orpha Miller, Home Demonstration Agent, El Centro, Imperial County.

The home ground improvement and the church and school ground improvement are grouped together in Sacramento County and have been carried on by the farm advisor, but are reported here as a part of farm home improvement. For the year 1924 we have the following results:

Homes assisted, planned, or landscaped.....	44
Schools assisted, planned, or landscaped.....	7
Parks assisted, planned, or landscaped.....	2
Cemetery planned and planting started.....	1
Eleven demonstrations with an attendance of.....	348
Three tours with an attendance of.....	27

In the 15 result demonstrations held 372 trees, valued at \$500, were planted. The number of shrubs planted was 2,535, valued at \$435. The cost of the general work amounted to \$1,775. This makes a total of \$2,710 worth of improvements and 2,907 trees and shrubs planted.

The Florin community is endeavoring to adopt community beautification as one of its projects for the coming year. It is hoped that about 10 or 20 homes will join in the movement.

The Arcade community has adopted this program and seven have signified their intention to beautify their home grounds next year. The plans will be drawn in the extension office, the orders pooled and delivered on a certain date, and the planting done as a community demonstration. - Christine G. Abbott, Home Demonstration Agent, Sacramento, Sacramento County.

The home ground improvement project, which is a long one, is just completing its second year. Its progress has been much interfered with by the dry year just passed.

In November, 1923, all plans were made for planting demonstrations in December. As there was no rain during December, it was thought best to postpone the meetings until February. Prior to that time the specialist had come into the county to help conduct the demonstrations, but it was decided that with the aid of the farm adviser the project could be carried on without him. The farm adviser assisted the home demonstration agent and the project leaders at all community planting demonstrations and the home demonstration agent carried on the rest.

All community plantings which were planned for the year were made by the farm adviser and the project leaders. The home demonstration agent was unable to carry on field demonstrations, and the home plantings were not so well done as they would have been under other conditions. Many of the homes went ahead with their plans so far as they thought best under the circumstances, considering also the dry weather and scarcity of water.

In the community demonstrations the Bonsall school planted 21 sycamores and 4 Monterey cypresses around the edge of the school grounds, and planted one-half of the east side to shrubbery. All but one tree is alive and growing well.

The Encinitas school which was added this year planted eucalyptus and some evergreen trees and shrubs on two sides of the building. Ten Monterey cypress trees which bordered the school grounds and which hid it were cut out. This gives a view of the school from the road end, as it is a very attractive mission style building, it adds much to the appearance of the school and town to have the trees cut out. Two old eucalyptus trees which spoiled the effect of the planting were also cut out. This is the only place where a part of the plantings were removed.

The Alpine community hall grounds were also planted but a large part of the trees and shrubbery has not survived. Native shrubs were used which under ordinary circumstances would have survived. There is no water piped to the place, and it was necessary to depend on rain, which did not come.

The other community demonstration was the cemetery at Portrero. It had been badly neglected for years so the farm home department decided to do something about it. They collected a fund with which they had it fenced and piped water into it before they did any planting. On the day of the demonstration all the people in the community helped.

Roads were cut through first and then the graves were staked and the ground leveled. Rough granite stones were hauled in and each grave without a stone was marked, then the whole place was plotted out in grave sites and staked. Heretofore very little attention had been given to line and it was hard to lay it off. Evergreen trees and native shrubs were planted. Roses were planted to cover the fences.

Many of the homes which were demonstration homes last year have added a few plants.

At the farm bureau fair this year the most interesting exhibit of native shrubs of San Diego County was shown with the sign, "We are planting our homes with these native shrubs." They are beautiful shrubs which the people can dig and bring in and not have to pay money to the nurseries. -Fleda E. Smith, Home Demonstration Agent, San Diego, San Diego County.

Eight centers are interested in the home grounds and 23 members have been enrolled in making their home grounds beautiful.

Last year the home grounds specialist made plans on paper, making carbon copies for 14 home grounds. This included the arrangement of drives and walks and the location of trees, shrubs, perennials, and vines. Several plants were suggested for each place so that if one should not be available another could be substituted. Local plants were used wherever possible. These plans were to be completed in two years.

The specialist was here for three days in October and visited all the grounds already planned and made plans for nine new homes, which will carry over for two years.

Much interest is shown in this project and several calls for plans have been made since the specialist's visit. Several men said they did not know how cheerful bright flowers make a home appear and they thought for the sale of land a planned landscape was one of the chief assets. More attention is being given to getting old buildings out of sight or giving them a coat of whitewash, entrances and walks are being made, and a suggested campaign for "Name your home" is being considered. The people feel that a named home will stimulate interest in the appearance of the place.

The local florist is interested in our project and is helping in every way. He has asked to study the plans and get the names of the plants so that he may familiarize himself with the work, and purchase the plants at a nominal cost. - Edna Hewitt, Home Demonstration Agent, Redding, Shasta County.

Colorado

This year the work on the home-improvement project has not been so successful as we should have liked, but some things were accomplished.

The federated women's clubs of Canon City conducted a home beautification contest within the city. The extension agent cooperated in this work. A lawn-improvement contest was instituted and carried throughout the year with success. This project was conducted on a competitive basis and was well supported by the women's clubs and the business men of the town. Twenty-five contestants participated in the lawn contest, and as a result great improvement in homes was made. The merchants of the town supported this contest with cash prizes to winners. Sixteen contestants participated in a parking contest, which was also sponsored and worked out by the federated women's clubs of Canon City.

As a result, 15 new lawns were planted and 8 old ones renovated and improved. The parkings between the sidewalks and the curbs were improved by 13 property owners. This community-improvement project completed its year's work by holding a flower show in Canon City. - Ace J. Taylor, County Agent, Canon City, Fremont County.

Florida

All juniors and adults enrolled in home demonstration work are given special instructions in improving home grounds. A circular on beautifying home grounds has proved very popular throughout the State and has been most helpful in selecting plans and border flowers for the home grounds. Eleven counties report 632 farms beautifying the home grounds this year. Miss Cole, home demonstration agent of Volusia County, reports the following:

"Beautifying the home grounds was started at the first meeting of the home bureau. One man gave 300 guava plants for distribution among the members, and many of the members brought cuttings and seeds of various kinds for exchange. They report that a large percentage of these have grown and some have already had fruit on them. We had one talk by a landscape artist, one by a bulb specialist, and we have had budding and grafting demonstrations. Special sheets of instructions in budding and grafting were prepared by the agent for distribution. Literature on lawns was also distributed, and 22 lawns have been started. Ten dollars worth of sweet-pea seed was bought cooperatively and planted, and \$30 worth of dahlia bulbs was bought by three clubs. A bulb man has become so interested in our results that he has offered the agent a dozen gladiolus bulbs and a dozen dahlia bulbs, free, for each of her home bureau members. This will later form a nucleus of a Volusia County flower show.

At nearly every meeting some time was given to the discussion of plantings. The following plantings have been reported: 142 rose bushes, 102 geraniums, 8 begonias, 15 rubber plants, 200 poinsettias, 200 hibiscus, 15 oleanders, 15 bougainvillias, 11 begonias, 1,386 gladiolus, 182 Easter lily bulbs, 72 narcissus, 6 crotons, 43 coral vines, 200 violets, besides caladiums, dahlias, amaryllis, holly trees, magnolias, and a number of other flowers."-Flavia Gleason, Home Demonstration Leader, Experiment Station, Gainesville.

Georgia

The eight home beautification projects were continued during the year. Early in the year the floral club established itself on an organized basis by adopting a charter and by-laws. The flower shows supported by the members of this club were held again this year, the dahlia and chrysanthemum shows being of special interest. As heretofore, I gave lectures and demonstrations on floriculture before the club. With the assistance of the landscape gardening specialist of the State College of Agriculture, I planned the development of a park on a large area of property lying in the heart of the city and leased for this purpose by the floral club from the Louisville and Nashville Railroad Co. The business men's league has assured its cooperation in the development of this project. The plans have been drawn and planting will be started this season. Three demonstrations were given on lawn making, 1 on pruning shade trees, 1 on pruning roses, and 5 on disbudding chrysanthemums. A cooperative order for rye grass seed for winter use on lawns was received and distributed.-A. J. Nitzschke, County Agent, Blue Ridge, Fannin County.

Since the first year of service in this county, work on the beautification of the yards of the people has steadily advanced. Flower plants and seeds have been carried from one part of the county to the other by the agent. Shrubs have been planted, trees set out, houses painted, fences repaired, and unsightly outhouses removed and repaired.

The women have started a movement to beautify the highways throughout the county, and a number of blossoming trees have been set out along the roads.

Cabbage palmetto and sea myrtle have been set out along the new highway across the marshes to St. Simons Island by the engineering contractors under the advice and direction of the home demonstration agent and have proved a successful demonstration in transplanting the delicate palm. Of the 360 trees planted only three failed to live.

The beautifying of the county court house grounds has advanced sufficiently for it to be considered the beauty spot of Brunswick. The plot consists of 4 acres, in the center of which stands the court house. There are 18 large live oaks and 2 slash pines within the area. Phoenix canariensis palms, cabbage palmetto, crepe myrtle, magnolia, dogwood, maple, willow, holly, pecan, hickory, locust, and mimosa trees have been added, besides ornamental shrubs of all kinds. The soil has been built up and prepared for a permanent lawn of carpet grass which has now almost completely covered three sides of the square; the fourth side is being built up.- Madge B. Merritt, Home Demonstration Agent, Brunswick, Glynn County.

Indiana

Organized landscape extension work was started in the spring of 1917, when a full-time assistant was employed to care for the work. Many demonstrations were started at that time. These now offer splendid opportunity for county tours, which are well attended, and great interest is shown.

Without a full-time assistant to care for this work many more calls for assistance in planting home grounds, school grounds, courthouse and other public building grounds, are received than can be cared for. This work is now being handled by having those parties interested draw a plan to scale, indicating all trees, drives, foundation lines, and so forth. The horticultural division then makes a rough sketch of the plan indicating the location of trees, vines, drives, and walks.

Experience has demonstrated that shade trees make the best plantings for school grounds. Plantings of shrubbery are of doubtful value where they are subject to tramping by school children.

Because of the widespread interest in beautifying the home grounds and the lack of time and funds to properly care for all of these demands, complete directions for the planting of the grounds and care of shade trees were prepared and published in bulletins 98 and 119. The bulletins make it possible for those deeply interested to properly plan and plant their own grounds. Twenty-five thousand copies of revised bulletin 98 were printed. Over 3,000 copies were requested and sent out during May 1924.

During 1923-24, 21 illustrated lectures were given; 3 town parks were surveyed and suggestions offered; 15 sketches were furnished to schools; and 2 county cemeteries were surveyed and plans for rearrangements made.- C. L. Burkholder, Extension Horticulturist, Purdue University, La Fayette.

Iowa

The landscape of Iowa farm homesteads, consolidated school grounds, and public parks has long been demanded throughout the State. There is probably no field that offers so many possibilities as this field does, and there is no line of work which is more needed. As a result, the landscape work was made a part of the service offered by the extension service. The purpose of the work is to promote landscape improvement and development through encouragement of personal effort with respect to the simpler problems, and to create, generally, an appreciation of the practice of landscape architecture. The work which is generally taken up consists of home grounds, farmsteads, school grounds, church grounds, community centers, cemeteries, parks, playgrounds, athletic fields, and town and country planning.

The method used depends upon the problem taken up. One type of work is the advisory call. Residences, farmsteads, schools, and parks where the problems are decidedly simple and where an hour or more is usually necessary for suggestive sketches and discussions are considered under this plan. The second plan is that of the afternoon meetings. These meetings, large and small, are held at every opportunity and time is allowed for a general talk and discussion. Sometimes these are held at places where advisory calls are made and in public buildings and churches. Good attendance is necessary for these meetings, as little is accomplished where only personal calls are made.

Night meetings are another means of getting across this type of work. These meetings usually consist of illustrated lectures.

Another method used in this work is the demonstration method. Detailed plans are made only in connection with a demonstration layout. This demonstration work is generally limited to one of each kind, to a county, a farmstead or school, due to the extra amount of time involved in plan making and the necessary supervision of the plan.

A new phase of work taken over by the extension service is in connection with the State park system. When it was decided that the extension service should assist with the work, an additional landscape artist, Mr. Fitzsimmons, was employed.

The following quotation from the Monona County report brings out the plans used in that county:

"Park Moorhead has a very difficult problem on his farm near Moorhead, in Spring Valley township. He wants his buildings rearranged so that they will fit into a certain specified space. Mr. Moorhead is an extensive cattle and hog feeder and owns 2,100 acres of land. This is the only set of buildings on this large tract. The landscape artist, C. H. Diggs, made a sketch of the land and will work out a definite building plan. These farmstead plans are the first to be developed in Monona County and will be very useful in future years for demonstration purposes."

Palo Alto County agent reports the following:

"The landscape project was adopted by townships in which the individuals lived who had filed requests at the farm bureau office. Three days' service of the landscape specialist was obtained. Demonstrations were arranged for the afternoon of each day, one at the home of Herman Morland in Fairfield township, one at the home of H. A. Holmgren in Highlands township, and one at the home of Art Bohn in Rush Lake township. The forenoons of each day were reserved for visits to individuals who had asked for help. A great number wanted special help on the location of new buildings which they hoped to build in the near future. While we were there Mr. Diggs gave them suggestions on planning the shelterbelt or windbreak and shrubbery in the yard.

The afternoon meetings were all well attended, taking into consideration the busy season of the year in which they were held. They were held on June 16, 17, and 18. At the places where the demonstrations were held, criticisms were made of the plantings of shrubbery and trees, and the location of buildings. Much interest was shown at these meetings. The evenings of each day were given to meetings at which Mr. Diggs gave illustrated lectures on landscape gardening which included all points of the work. The three evening meetings and the three demonstrations were attended by 355 people and 11 individual farms were visited.

The meetings were advertised in the county papers and over the telephone by local leaders and cooperator in the townships where the meetings were held. - M. McDonald, County Agent Leader, Iowa State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, Ames.

Landscape demonstrations were not projected for 1924, but due to requests from farmers it was considered advisable to conduct demonstrations of this kind, as the value of the farm no longer depends upon the productivity of the soil alone, but upon the management and convenience of the buildings and the beautification of the home grounds as well.

Demonstrations were conducted in Hayes, Maple, Battle, Griggs, and Galva townships. The demonstrations were held at the farms of those requesting work as follows: Earl Linquist, John Marshall, C. C. Crawford, and Lou Spindler. C. E. Diggs of the extension service, gave three days to this project and the county agent three and four-tenths days. At each demonstration Mr. Diggs advised all farmers to work out a plan and suggested that they arrange all buildings about a court. He also recommended that each farmer begin as soon as possible to develop an evergreen windbreak.

In the 6 demonstrations 40 farmers were reached. Five of these farmers, who had anticipated making a change but wished to consult a specialist before doing so, decided to make changes about the farmstead. Lou Spindler's farm is being used as a permanent demonstration. A blue print of the plans recommended was made and Mr. Spindler, who will use this plan, hopes to add some improvement to the farm each year. He expects to start next year with an evergreen windbreak and a barn. The entire farmstead will be rebuilt and rearranged, and as the present buildings are old it can be done without any great inconvenience or financial loss.

It is difficult to estimate the value of this project so soon after the demonstrations, although it can be said that the interested parties mentioned above were all impressed with the project. Any work of this kind done in the future will very likely be done by the use of pictures to show improvements on farms now engaged in the work. Help will be given in locating suitable trees, shrubs, and bushes, and in any other way that may be requested.- E. L. Moser, County Agent, Ida Grove, Ida County.

The disgraceful looking farm home grounds to be found throughout the county are sufficient reason for an association with the aims of the farm bureau, to take up landscape demonstrations.

The homes selected for demonstrations were visited in 1923 by H. E. Cornell of the extension service, and the blue print plans were drawn by him for the buildings.

We started the year 1924 with these plans in hand, and the question arose whether we should merely turn them over to the persons owning the homes, or personally see that they were put to some use. The latter course was decided upon and each home was visited and the plans thoroughly explained. This is a project which may well find a place in the small town as well as in the country home. Two homes were chosen in Keosauqua and four in as many townships of the county.

Help was given each one in obtaining plants and in getting them set, and with a favorable season for transplanting they have made more than an average success. These demonstrations have created a new interest in home planning and planting, though the problems in connection with the project are many and of long duration.

It would seem that the landscape demonstrations should start with a short course in care and handling of plants, and gradually work toward a better understanding of the whole problem including the plan, the final planting, and the care of the plantings.

As a part of the landscape project a contest was conducted in Keosauqua, in cooperation with the local business men's organizations. Plans and rules for the contest were worked out by a committee, and an enrollment of 30 homes was obtained. The purpose was largely that of landscape improvement. The contest has recently closed, and one of the farm bureau leaders in home beautification who acted as judge made a very excellent report. A complete set of lantern slides is to be made of this contest and will be available for use later. The final results of this work are lasting and will give greater returns in better citizenship than many things undertaken.- Arthur J. Secor, County Agent, Keosauqua, Van Buren County.

Louisiana

Approximately 1,000 packets of mixed giant zinnia seed were donated to club members by the Louisiana cauliflower association through 24 of the home demonstration agents. Last year this same work was carried on with excellent results but only a fair number of record cards were returned. The demand for the continuation of the work was so great that it was continued with a promise of increased endeavor to keep the necessary records. Interest in this phase of work is increasing rapidly, and it will prove one of the most popular as well as one of the most successful projects. It is particularly appealing to girls between the ages of 15 and 17 years whose taste turns to improving appearances rather than to raising vegetables or chickens.

The home ground improvement work necessitates either the planning of homes at the office or at personal visits. A few of the agents have become efficient enough to plan the grounds themselves. A few models planned either by the garden specialist or the department at Washington are used as demonstrations wherever possible. Courthouse grounds and school grounds have come in for a great part of the consideration of the various women's clubs through which most of this work has been carried on. Incidentally, it has done much to bring the city women as well as the country women in closer contact with the home demonstration agents and the extension service.

A number of flower shows will be held. The main one held this year was at East Baton Rouge and was fostered by a general committee of one representative from each woman's club in that city. The show was very successful and is to be used as a model for future shows throughout the State.- H. W. Fristoe, Extension Horticulturist, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge.

Maryland

The women's clubs of Sykesville with the cooperation of the Chamber of Commerce inaugurated a home ground improvement contest last spring. The three homes which made the greatest improvement during the year received prizes totaling \$5. The contest was conducted to beautify the town through the efforts of the property owners. All the homes entered were scored by a committee composed of Jesse P. King, florist and landscape gardener, Miss Isabelle Cobb, home demonstration agent, and F. W. Fuller, county agent, on the following score: House 10; shrubbery 10; lawn 10; boundaries 10; trees 10; flowers 10; outbuildings 10; walks and drives 10; and general appearance from the street 20;

The general repair and painting of the house was considered and scored accordingly. The placing, suitableness, and general condition of the shrubbery was considered. A well-graded lawn covered with a good clean turf was considered ideal. Many kinds of material were used to indicate the boundaries of property, and the effectiveness of each kind was scored. Trees should be grouped with reference to the house, size of property, and the results for which they were planted. Flowers used in beds, borders, and boxes and the color scheme were all taken into consideration by the committee. The same conditions under house held for the outbuildings as well. The walks and drives for the property were scored with reference to the street, house, and outbuildings. All these conditions put together and considered from the street as they would be viewed by a tourist made up the general appearance. Each property was scored as an individual unit without any reference to the other contestants. The homes entered were scored by the committee in the spring and again in September, the difference between the two scores indicating the amount of improvement accomplished. Total scores ran from 12 to 66 this spring; the fall scores were from 12 to 75.

Mr. King, Miss Cobb, and Mr. Fuller gave generously of their time until the work was completed. Each contestant will receive from the extension service a letter suggesting phases of improvement which will count the greatest number of points and make the greatest attractiveness in his home surroundings.

Mr. King says he can see much good resulting from the contest, as it will not only beautify the little town but will awaken civic consciousness in many other lines of work as well. F. W. Fuller, County Agent, Westminster, Carroll County.

Missouri

This year the more attractive homes project was started in Lincoln County in the following communities: Ethlyn, Olney, Auburn, and Troy. The best results have been in the Olney and Ethlyn communities. A lecture was given at which demonstrators were enrolled followed by three demonstrations and a tour. The demonstrators for the yard were Mrs. F. P. Palmer, Mrs. M. T. Nichols, Mrs. M. T. Shaw, Mrs. J. L. Thomas, Mrs. Henry Haverkamp, Mrs. H. W. Klaustermier, Mrs. C. A. Copher, Mrs. R. G. Chandler, and Mrs. A. W. Williams. All the yard demonstrators followed instructions given by the specialist but due to conditions in the spring some were total failures. Mrs. Palmer used the foundation planting very effectively, and had a good screen of velvet beans growing over her back porch. Mrs. Nichols used annuals to screen the chicken yard from the front yard and planted honeysuckle on the fence between the front yard and the corral. She also did some foundation planting. Mrs. Shaw used salvia, petunias, and geraniums for foundation plantings with attractive results. Mrs. Copher and the civic league had the outstanding demonstration in the Troy community. They have both given their attention to shrubbery. Mrs. Copher planted 52 shrubs, 43 of which are living. She has started a spirea hedge between her yard and that of her neighbors. She is using the border and foundation-planting idea, and has her plans for the future very definitely made. She is using both native and cultivated shrubs.

The civic league in Troy is interested in the improvement of two small centrally located parks. Miss Rocheford of the extension service submitted a complete landscape plan. A barberry hedge was planted around the small park and 10 arbor vitae, 4 bunches of bridal wreath, and 1 elm tree were planted according to plan. Two urns and 3 small flower beds were removed. The improvement at the end of a few months is very noticeable. They hope to finish planting by next spring.

Mrs. Chandler in the Auburn community demonstrated conclusively that the removal of trees and shrubs in a yard too closely planted makes more attractive surroundings. - C. L. Montgomery, Home Demonstration Agent, Troy, Lincoln County.

New Mexico

Bernalillo and San Miguel Counties report the most work in shade tree planting. In the city of Albuquerque, during the season of 1924, there were planted 500 cottonwoods, 100 locusts, 500 Lombardy poplars, 100 elms, and 150 box elders, and in the district around Las Vegas 1,000 shade trees consisting of black walnuts, Carolina poplars, and box elders, were planted during one day set aside for that purpose. In addition, the agent procured 100 Chinese Pistache and 100 Chinese elms from the U. S. Department of Agriculture for the same purpose. In the highland district around Albuquerque the nonbearing Russian mulberry, black locust, and upright tamarisk are being recommended by the forest service, and in the valley the nonbearing cottonwood, elm, Russian olive, and ash.

In Alamogordo, in Otero County, Prof. Fite aided the county agent in demonstrating to town employees the proper method of setting out elm, locust, soft maple, and sycamore trees. These trees were planted between the cottonwoods in the town at the recommendation of the forest service, and it is hoped that they will be of sufficient size in a few years so the cottonwoods may be cut down.

In Harding County the agent interested five people who pooled an order for 60 shade trees consisting of ash, hackberry, honey locust, mulberry, elm, and jack pine. Practically all of them lived after being planted.

The home demonstration agents in Bernalillo and Dona Ana Counties both mention work along the line of flowers and ornamental shrubs. In Bernalillo County 143 rose bushes were obtained for the ladies in two communities. Flowers, such as dahlias, Chrysanthemums, marigolds, asters, and morning-glories were planted by 12 women after talking with the home demonstration agent about seed beds. Eighty homes procured hollyhock seed shipped in from Colorado.

Mr. French, one of the undertakers, has for several years given out dahlia bulbs to boys and girls to plant. This year he gave nine dahlia bulbs to each of 100 boys and girls with instructions about how to plant and care for them. Ninety-six of the flower gardens grew. In the fall the flower gardens were judged and prizes awarded to the children making the best showing.

In Dona Ana County, Prof. Garcia talked before most of the farm bureau units about shrubbery and flowers. One woman attempted to grow pansies on a small scale in hot beds. This proved so successful that she later started growing them commercially for others to plant and she is now selling them both as plants and picked blossoms. - Fabian Garcia, Extension Horticulturist, New Mexico College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, State College.

New York

In Stafford, April 29 was observed as a community field day for the purpose of beautifying the plot of ground known as Sanders Memorial Park. This park was a gift to the village. A monument to World War veterans had previously been erected and the particular work to be accomplished on the field day was to place the large canon in a suitable place and to plant decorative trees and

shrubs about the monument and in other parts of the park. Leonard Wood had charge of the work and about 25 men responded with trucks and shovels. The best spirit prevailed throughout the day and a large amount of work was accomplished. Prof. Porter, from the department of floriculture and ornamental horticulture, who had designed the plans for the arrangement and planting of the shrubbery, obtained a load of evergreen trees early in the day and these were soon planted about the monument.

Other places where community work was done under Prof. Porter's direction during the last week in April and the first week in May are: Alabama center at the Baptist church with Mrs. Pixley in charge; at the better homes demonstration house in cooperation with A. W. Bogue of the Genesee County nurseries; at the school building in Alexander with Mrs. Carlton Fisher in charge; and at North Bergen church with Mrs. F. O. Cook in charge.

Landscape architecture is becoming a very interesting project and one to which communities and individuals alike are giving considerable thought and attention. Prof. Porter's time in this county is usually taken up with events of this nature for the beautification of the surroundings of churches, schools, and other buildings. A large number of individuals also request his advice on problems of tree planting and arrangement of shrubs for their homesteads.-H. A. Dwinell, County Agent, Batavia, Genesee County.

North Carolina

All agents wherever possible render assistance in beautification of home grounds and 34 counties reported this as a special project. Some of the home beautification has been a continuance of the program started in 1923 by the extension specialist in landscape gardening. Planting plans were made by him for certain consolidated schools of the county and all the people of the community concerned cooperated in carrying out these plans. Much of the work was done through all-day planting bees, at which time the men, women, and children gathered, bringing with them plants, shrubs, and flowers, and with the combined efforts of all present, under the direction of the county and home agents, driveways and walks were laid off, plants set out, and the work well started for carrying out the project.

In 7 counties in the State there were 19 of these community projects started in this way. The inspiration gained from these has been widespread. In counties where planting bees were not held the work was taken up by members of the home demonstration clubs as a part of the regular program of work outlined for the year. In this way the principles of planting were studied and later the individual problems of each home were considered by the woman and her family with the home agent as chief adviser.

The methods used by the agent in Anson County have brought satisfactory results. She says, "One of the slogans of the home demonstration work for the past year has been, 'Make your home attractive.' To this end we had a pink crepe myrtle campaign for two weeks in December. The small trees were ordered cooperatively and procured at a reasonable price. A meeting was held in each community and talks were made outlining the general principles of landscape design. Instructions were given on how to propagate plants from cuttings and each housewife was urged to start a small plot of cuttings from various kinds of shrubs, when it was not possible to buy the plants already rooted. We also urged the use of native shrubbery and gave instructions on how to transplant it. About 1,000 crepe myrtle trees and spirea, wigelia, holly, and other evergreens were

planted. In the spring, while the early jonquils and other bulbs were blooming, and everyone could see how beautiful they were, we urged the women to fill in the corners and along the fences with these old-time bulbs. We asked each housewife, who had a generous supply in her yard, to divide with as many of her neighbors as she could, and in this manner we have been able to have several thousand of these bulbs planted.

In April and May, when the iris and spirea were in bloom, we again urged a greater use of these varieties for beautifying the premises and many old homesteads where the iris had multiplied were visited and plants obtained for different sections of the county. In November, the women observed one day as iris day and each one planted for herself or divided her iris with a friend. We have been pleased with the cooperation received along these lines and it has been a pleasure to observe the improved appearance of so many of the homes. In October we drove through a section on our way to a meeting for marketing poultry and almost every yard we passed was a lovely sight with the old-time varieties of winter pinks, zinnias, and marigolds."

The little town of Maiden with the help of the Catawba County agent, conducted a home-improvement contest with prizes offered for the best yard and garden. Forty-eight yards and 35 gardens were entered with pleasing results.

Because of the nature of the work, a project in beautifying home grounds can not be completed in one year but must be carried over a period of three or four years and requires more or less individual attention from the agent. Although seemingly slow during the process of development, as an example to the rest of the community, it bears almost immediate results in the increased number of homes attempting the same thing. -Jane S. McKimmon, Home Demonstration Leader, North Carolina State College of Agriculture and Engineering, Raleigh.

Early in the spring of 1924 four communities started to improve their home grounds, school grounds, and church lots. To begin with committees were appointed to decide upon the plantings and the means of financing this project.

At the town of Winton the committee visited the town board of commissioners and asked their cooperation in making the town beautiful, and their request was granted. At the courthouse this committee planted vines, bulbs, and annuals. Four large barrels were obtained for caladiums; a large bed of cannas was prepared; tall massive shrubbery was planted near the jail; and window boxes were planted for the office windows.

At the two banks window boxes were made and vines were planted, and on the side of each bank beds of cannas were planted. On two vacant lots flower beds were made and bulbs planted.

At the Winton school \$10 worth of shrubbery given by a local nursery was planted according to the direction of the county agent. Many local shrubs were also contributed and \$8 worth of dahlia bulbs was given by a firm in Norfolk, Va. Flower boxes were placed on the stone steps of this building which added greatly to the beauty of the surroundings. Rows and beds of cannas were also planted on the grounds. -Mrytle Swindell, Home Demonstration Agent, Winton, Hertford County.

Oklahoma

The beautification of home grounds is not a major project in any of our counties, as caring for the bare necessities comes first with us, but we do try in each district to stimulate an interest in home beautification and to encourage the work. Every girl in the 4-H demonstration work is expected to

carry on a simple beautification project, and our reports show that 1,351 women and 8,108 girls were enrolled in this phase of the work. Six hundred ninety-seven women and 4,039 girls completed the work. As a rule, this project can not be completed in one year, but in many cases a flower garden represents the work done by the demonstrators.

Mrs. Condon, home demonstration agent of Greer County, sent in the following item in one of her weekly reports: "Faye Walling, one of my 4-H club girls, is gladdening the hearts of several of the girls and women. She has two beautiful Dorothy Perkins climbing roses. Last fall she buried a number of vines, and now she has enough rose bushes to make a hedge clear across her front yard and has given away about two dozen rose bushes to girls in different parts of the county."

From Mrs. Coryell's report a different phase of the work is illustrated. In her report she gives a picture of the house of T. Stover, a demonstrator who is working under F. L. Mulford of the Washington office. Mr. Mulford worked out a plan whereby the Stovers would use native trees and shrubs in the beautification project. She further states that Mr. Stover is well satisfied with the progress of the project, which has lasted five years. Mr. Mulford has several other demonstrators under Mrs. Coryell in Grady County, and now that we have a man in our own State devoting half of his time to home beautification we hope to emphasize this work more.-Francis L. Browne, Home Demonstration Leader, Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College, Stillwater.

South Carolina

Probably one of the most interesting pieces of work is that which is being carried on through the flower clubs in the county. Splendid reports have come from members showing a great increase in the number of flowers planted this year. This work has not been confined to clubs. A number of communities are planting flowers by the roadside, improving school grounds, and home grounds. The farm woman's council adopted the dahlia as the county flower and asked that the county women grow a dahlia at every door step, and judging from the number of blooms this fall the idea has taken well in the county. Dahlia day was observed at the Square Deal market and many people came to buy as well as to see the flowers. Many orders have been taken for dahlia bulbs to be delivered in the spring as a result of the shows and dahlia day.

Mrs. Landrum Seers received the first prize in flower work at the county fair, and the following is a report of her work:

"Early in January my flower bed was thoroughly plowed and made rich with well-pulverized barnyard fertilizer. The last week in January I planted 25 cents worth of Spencer mixed sweet peas. From this small bed many bunches of flowers were sent to the hospital for the sick and from the sale of cut blossoms \$9 was realized.

In February, I decided to prune my roses and set them in a new place. I took them up and pruned the roots also, taking off all the old diseased ones. They were planted again and fertilized with barnyard fertilizer. In the spring I had many pretty blooms. From the sale of roses \$5 was realized.

Early in April I began to get my ground ready for my 'mums'. I had one row in the garden thoroughly plowed and fertilized with barnyard and commercial fertilizer. The plants were separated and planted the last of April and worked every week for several weeks. Once each month more fertilizer was added. They have been pruned and the buds have been pinched off leaving the strong ones. From the sale of plants \$16 was realized and \$12 from the sale of blooms.

Last November I ordered 300 gladiolus bulbs. When they came I packed them in paper bags and stored them in a warm closet. In March I had several rows plowed and fertilized with barnyard and commercial fertilizer. The last week in March 100 bulbs were planted, two weeks later 100 more were planted, and two weeks later the last hundred was planted. These were plowed and worked just like the vegetables. I had blooms until August. I paid \$15 for the bulbs, and sold \$30 worth of cut flowers, and have my bulbs cleaned and stored away for another year.

In April the dahlia clumps are lifted from the earth, the ground plowed and fertilized with barnyard fertilizer. The clumps were separated and only one tuber planted in a hill. Stakes were driven in each place where the tuber was planted and as the plant grew each was tied to a stake. The tubers should be planted 6 inches deep and 3 feet apart. The plants were cultivated every two weeks until September. October is the dahlia month and during that month I sold loads of blooms and booked dozens of orders. One seedling was sent to the Trial Gardens in April, one to Berkeley, Calif., and one to Storrs, Conn. This year I sold and booked orders for \$218 worth of tubers, and sold \$128 worth of cut flowers, which is a total of \$346. I also received 97 orders for tubers which could not be filled. I wish that I could value in dollars the pleasure I receive from my flowers each year! "-Kate M. Harper, Home Demonstration Agent, Spartanburg, Spartanburg County.

Texas

Each club girl is asked to make a simple yard plan which can be carried out during her four years of club work. Some planting is done each year with the ultimate aim of having a neat, attractive yard well started at the end of the four years of club work. In addition to planting, each girl is expected to keep both front and back yards clean and do any repair work possible. As a whole the yard work of the girls has been carried on with good results during 1924 in spite of excessive droughts in many sections of the State.

In most instances the mothers and fathers have cooperated heartily in the work. To interest the girls in Palo Pinto County in making their homes more attractive, the club women of Mineral Wells organized a plant and seed exchange whereby the girls were given many cuttings of rose bushes and shrubs. These girls report 10 grape arbors planted, with seats built inside, and 125 shade trees planted.

Last spring in Dalam County, a man who has been a lover of trees and flowers offered a prize to the club girl who brought in to him the best dahlia bloom grown from bulbs which he distributed to the girls through the home demonstration agent. Directions were given regarding the planting and care of the plants. The girls had good results and later they were taught how to separate the bulbs and care for them through the winter after the blooming season is over.

In Travis County a similar piece of yard beautification was accomplished with zinnias.

A tree-planting campaign was organized for arbor day in Rusk County where the agent is emphasizing the use of fruit and nut trees and is urging each member to plant at least one and care for it properly.

One farm woman in Cass County is said to have the most attractive yard on a highway of 50 miles. She has beautiful flowers, grass, and shrubs. Until her girls became club members they had never planted anything, now she says she could not live without them.

Dallas County has had a county flower and seed exchange for five years. Each club has repeated this locally and as a result bulbs, flowers, and shrubs have been thoroughly distributed over the county. Fifteen yards in the county have had definite landscape plans made for them and efforts are being made to carry them out.

In 1924, 6,518 women and 9,729 girls enrolled in beautification of home grounds. Of these 3,735 women and 5,202 girls completed the project. As a result of instruction in beautification, 855 home grounds and 172 school grounds and community grounds have been planted this year. The total number of homes beautifying home grounds this year is 10,417.- Bertha Clayton, Home Management Specialist, Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, College Station.

One of the big projects for this year was the distribution of poinsettia cuttings. These were given to the farmers in the various sections of the county last February and a poinsettia day was set aside in the communities for that purpose. The result of the work is very apparent for wherever one goes the red blooms can be seen. The county agent in cooperation with the home demonstration agent has designated the second week in February 1925 as poinsettia week and more cuttings will be distributed.

The poinsettia has to be pruned each year in order to make it bloom more and to prevent the stem from becoming too large and breaking over just before blossom time. In 1923, nearly all prunings were burned. The county agent asked the people for cuttings and on February 12, distributed 1,100 cuttings in Brownsville and El Jardin. The ones in El Jardin were presented to the members of the women's clubs and the 4-H clubs.

The county agent's car was loaded in the town and he drove out and distributed the cuttings through rural clubs as much as possible and gave the rest to farmers along the road. In the work of the boys' and girls' clubs only 15 cuttings were given to each member and then only to the oldest ones in the family. In Los Indios, Los Fresnos, and Santa Maria 800 cuttings were distributed; in San Benito 18,900; in Brownsville 800; and in Harlington 735. In addition to this many hundred cuttings were given away by various people of which there is no record.- Louis N. Alsmeyer, County Agent, San Benito, Cameron County.

West Virginia

Individual homes, schools, and churches were used for demonstration purposes in the home beautification work. Communities which were known to be interested in the improvement of the exterior conditions of their homes were selected largely through the home demonstration agents. A home in this community was then selected for demonstration purposes. Community meetings were held where all who were interested assembled. In most cases this was at the home of the demonstrator. A lecture on the general principles of landscape gardening was given to those present. Sometime before the meeting a paced survey was made of the home and its surroundings. From this a development and planting plan was made and a blueprint sent to the demonstrator. Where conditions made it possible pictures were made of the demonstration homes before any work was done and it is intended that pictures be taken after suggested changes are made. These pictures are finally to be worked up in a bulletin to be used for advertising purposes. In many cases no plans were made, only rough sketches being drawn and plantings suggested for the different homes.

Emphasis was placed on the use of native material for planting, as the State can boast of as choice a selection of trees and shrubs for landscape work as any in the union. Ordinarily not much urging is required to influence people to use native material, they simply have not thought of using it. Some prefer to use exotic material because it gives more variety and native material is seen daily. Preliminary work was done by the home demonstration agents through the use of club lesson leaflets which were studied at the monthly club meetings. These came in orderly sequence, taking up first, the plan; second, trees; third, shrubs; and fourth, annuals and perennials. To these, for the ensuing season, is to be added one on lawn making, and later one on indoor plantings.

This work in no way infringes upon that of the commercial landscape architect as the type of home worked with is such that could not afford to hire a landscape architect. Nor could they afford to carry out his work when planned. The plans are made to give them something definite to follow so they can carry out the work over a number of years. The work in the field proves more and more popular and while it has been almost entirely restricted to country homes in the past, there is a growing demand for work of a similar type in the small town.

Many requests were received for help on country school and church grounds. With the exception of two cases, these requests were for grounds where schools had been built. Here, in particular, native shrubs were used where they receive little care and much rough usage. The children are easily interested in this work and are glad to help clean and plant the grounds and keep them neat when planted. The home demonstration agent in Braxton County had her 4-H club at Chapel clean the church grounds and plant shrubs and flowers.

Much poor work has been done in the State in placing the school building on the school grounds. In many cases the splendid grounds have been ruined as far as the rest of the layout is concerned. The Upshur County board of education asked for plans before the school was erected. They were well pleased with the plans which showed not only the present school building site, but a gymnasium, athletic field, roads, and walks. Since then, two other school boards which contemplate the building of high schools have asked for assistance before the school is built.-- T. D. Gray, Extension Horticulturist, College of Agriculture, West Virginia University, Morgantown.

Summary

There is no one best method to obtain results. Whichever gives promise of reaching a large number of farm homes should be considered. Many times plant exchanges or the distribution of cuttings through the county may be the needed stimulus to start interest. Community contests or county competitions are often the way to get widespread action. Dividing the landscape problem into parts like foundation planting, border planting, screen planting, shade tree planting, and lawn making, and endeavoring to get each club member in the county to do a little of the kind of planting selected for the year is often useful. This division makes the problem look less formidable both to the agent and the demonstrator and thus more likely to be undertaken. In addition local leadership must be developed for the largest results.

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